

Bucs take state

From Staff Reports

The Buccaneers are over the hump. They've grasped the brass ring. The monkey is, no doubt, completely off their back. On March 7, and for the first time ever, the Shelton State team is state champions of the Alabama Junior College Conference.

The Bucs completely dominated the Lawson State of Birmingham, 90-76 in the finale, but that doesn't mean the going was easy.

The semifinal game the evening before saw the Shelton is a grueling match against their perennial rival and the host of the tourney, Faulkner State.

"That was one of the toughest, guttiest performances I've ever seen," said Dean of Students Humphrey Lee. After trailing the whole game,

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Photo by Courier Staff

The Buccaneers celebrate winning the Division I state championship after defeating Lawson State in Bay Minette on March 7.

Technical jobs in state are on the rise

By Amy P. Oswalt
Staff Writer

What is the real deal with technical education? Is it for those students who are too lazy to go to school for four years? Or maybe it's for those without the ability to achieve that four-year degree.

Contrary to popular belief, neither of these are the case, although there are always exceptions. These stigmas attached to technical degrees are long overdue for a reconstruction appropriate for the 21st century.

Even in this day, parents are still pushing and high-school counselors are still agreeing, "Yes, I think Little Johnny should be a doctor or a lawyer." As if these were the only two professions that allowed people to reach their full potential in the great pursuit of happiness.

The time has come for students, parents, counselors and everyone else to realize that technical and career training has evolved into a limitless educational experience adequate for even those "potential doctors."

According to Rick Rogers, president of Shelton State Community College, "over 70 percent of the jobs in West Alabama for the next decade are projected to be in technical related areas."

Experts including the Association for Career and

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Conservation groups struggle to save Hurricane Creek

By Cortney Roberts
Staff Writer

Hurricane Creek is a 26-mile ecosystem unique to Tuscaloosa. Located off of Highway 216, it encompasses everything from rock formations, rapids, caves, and even sandy beaches. It is a beautiful area containing two of the rarest plants found in Alabama and other lush greenery.

That, however, could soon be changing. The Eastern bypass, a 20-mile long highway and bridge meant to reduce traffic on McFarland Boulevard, is presently routed to cross the creek at least twice

and come close to natural stone cliffs containing a waterfall. Local conservation groups including Friends of Hurricane Creek and the Hurricane Creek Task Force, indicate that this construction will damage, if not destroy, the delicate habitat.

They also believe that Tuscaloosa Department of Transportation has not completed the proper research to ensure the area's preservation. Already the creek is on the Environmental Protection Agency's list of impaired due to pH levels, iron, and other metals.

The pollution is attributed to the near-



Photo by Cortney Roberts

Hurricane Creek, home to two of the rarest plants in Alabama, is located off Highway 216 in Tuscaloosa.

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Inside The Courier



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- The Middle Eastern Answer Man
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Look for the sales, discount coupons and special notices in the Courier's ads. For advertising information, call 391-2278.

Off the Shelf...

By Glen Johnson

Paul Madriani is back on the roller coaster with another Steve Martini thriller. *The Arraignment* opens with Martini's friend and fellow lawyer being gunned down, along with a client, in a hail of bullets on the crowded streets outside the San Diego federal courthouse. The search for his pal's murdered takes Martini from Southern California to steamy Yucatan, when it looks like one of his own clients may be involved in the hit.

History fans get a bounce with Michael Curtis Ford's *Gods and Legions*. In it, Julian, a young scholar living in Athens, manages to succeed the Roman Emperor Constantine. In doing so, he switches the official Roman religion from Constantine's Christianity back to the worship of the original Roman deities. Thus, he earns his name Julian the Apostate through the following ages. Massive wars as well as other travails follow in the wake of his retroactivity.

For more historical reading, try Philip Hensher's *The Mulberry Empire*. It covers the English adventure into Afghanistan. Prior to the American incursion and before the Russian invasion, the British were there from the 1850s and for most of the next century, seeing that mountain region as a buffer to insure control of India. Hensher's story swirls together a panorama of English, Russian, Indian, Afghan and Persian players in what came to be known as "The Great Game." England and Russia square off for control of the mountainous gateway to the riches of the Indian Empire.

Our Middle Eastern Answer Man

By Salih Alamassy

Q: Why do Muslim women have to cover up so much of themselves when they go out in public?

A: The women in the Middle East cover because that is what Islam is telling us to do. The Quran (the Muslim's book we believe is given to us from God) is the book where we get instruction on our daily activities. It still contains the same words since 1,500 years ago in the original Arabic language; not even a letter has been changed.

It is in the Quran that women should cover so they would be respected, and for me it makes sense. Imagine a girl walking in the street wearing long-sleeve shirt and long pants. No one will bother her, or the percentage will be almost nothing, compared to a girl wearing a tight short skirt and sleeveless shirt showing cleavage; a girl like that would be more likely to be bothered.

The Muslim community is a place where you can find a virgin girl and a virgin man and covering is what make that possible. If the man cares enough for a woman, he should wait and not look for other women.

If a married woman has makeup on and her hair is styled the best it can be, shouldn't she do it for her husband inside the house instead of show it to all the other men outside the house? Men should also cover from their knees to their waist.

Q: Many Americans are shocked to hear when people in



the Middle East do not support the USA's efforts to get rid of Saddam Hussein. What's up with that?

A: The people in the Middle East don't have the freedom to say what ever they want, especially about the president or the king of their country, and that is totally the opposite of what Islam is telling us to do.

Islam is the religion of free speech, but the presidents of each country back there are the only ones to make decisions and no one can stop them or say no, or they will be locked up for a really long time in prison.

Before prophet Mohammed there was an old saying: Be on your brother's side if he was right or wrong. But the prophet corrected the saying to be: Be on your brother's side if he is right or when he is wrong by correcting him.

A man came to take some money from the prophet, but it wasn't the time they agreed to give him his money back. He grabbed the prophet by his neck and kept telling him: give me my money. A hundred of the prophet's friends were around him and he could of got that man in deep trouble just by snapping his finger. But he didn't hurt the man and he gave him his money back. He even gave him a little extra money over what he owed him. This shows us that we are allowed to question authority. Saddam Hussein is fair game for criticism and correction in the Muslim world.

Terrific Tuesday to feature Mark Brown

Dr. Mark Brown, Shelton State Community College music faculty member, will present a concert on Tuesday, March 25, at 1 p.m. in the Alabama Power Recital Hall.



Dr. Mark Brown

The concert is part of the college's Terrific Tuesday Concert series featured in March during the Jubilee Celebration of Excellence in the Arts. This performance is free and open to the public.

A native of Northport, Brown received his bachelor's degree in choral music education from Auburn University in 1987 and his master's degree in conducting from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester in 1988.

He received his doctorate in vocal pedagogy from the University of Mississippi in 1985.

During 1988-89 he taught high school choral music in Houston, Texas, and sang with the Houston Symphony Chorus. Brown also taught music in the Jefferson County Schools from 1989-1992.

Brown joined the Shelton State faculty in 1995 and currently serves as the assistant choral director of the Shelton Singers and teaches voice, percussion and music appreciation.

He is also director of music at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

For additional information, call (205) 391-2270.



Photos by Courier Staff

Celebrating the arts

On March 6, the art of poetry was blended with the art of music when Shelton presented Poetry in Music. Above: Participants in the event were (L-R) Charles Dennis, Linda Grote, Rick Dice, Susan Bamberg, Glen Johnson, Michael Florence, David Sandy and Dr. Alan Blackshear. Left: David Sandy reads "She Walks in Beauty," written by Lord Byron.



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The Shelton State Courier is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic

freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The Courier is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

Gala offers another night of magical fun

By Jonathan King
Chief Writer

On the evening of Saturday, March 15, two more "stars that fell on Alabama" were inducted into the Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame. One of them recognized for being part of everything from a jazz musician to movie star, and the other recognized for being part of "nothing."

Nat King Cole, well known for his romantic ballads and his racially pioneering television show, and Tom Cheronos, executive producer and director of *Seinfeld* (the "show about nothing") were honored Saturday as they became the 15th and 16th members of the Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame.

"It is a great honor, and I am quite proud to call Tuscaloosa my hometown," said Tuscaloosa native Cheronos.

The ceremony was not only attended by patrons of the arts from around the community, but also by well known stars such as Victoria Jackson, a former member of the *Saturday Night Live* cast, and Marla Gibbs, who played Florence on the show *The Jeffersons*.

Jackson was attending the event as a presenter for Tom Cheronos, whom she joked "will hopefully discover me now, since he never had me on any of his other shows." Jackson, a stand up comedian

duction.

"We've been including Shelton State for some of our projects. We filmed here, and we used some of Shelton's actors, and we have been very well supported by the theatre department here. I have been very well pleased with the connection we have with Shelton." In fact, Cheronos and his class were here earlier this semester filming in the Bean-Brown Theatre and around campus. Cheronos has no plans to direct any more big movies or shows in the near future.

"A few episodes of television comedy would be alright," said Cheronos. "I am 63 now, and it is time to let the young folks and the students have a shot, to see what they can do. So far I've enjoyed working with and the University, so I'll stay as long as they'll have me. Since I'm free for some time, I think they'll have me a while."

Marla Gibbs was in attendance to accept Nat King Cole's award for his family. She was the screen mother to Nat's performing daughter, Natalie, in 1994, and became friends with the family from that moment on. She made a very elegant acceptance speech, one befitting of the man being honored. She spoke during her acceptance speech about a man who "was different from all the rest."

Gibbs went on to say that "during this time in television, known as the 'black and white' era, it wasn't so much black and white as it was all white, with a few specks of black here and there. Nat Cole changed that, and faced all the racial criticism with elegance and pride."

During the reception afterwards Gibbs commented on the distance that the industry has come since that time, noting the Oscar male and female best actors going to African-Americans last year.

"It just proves that we're coming full circle, finally getting to a point where we are supposed to be. We are all one, and when we finally get that, we will have no cause for war or anything else because it will be all about love and supporting each other."

The reception afterwards was a hit, as couples danced the rest of the evening away to the sounds of a jazz band. The late evening was very relaxed and fun, and even the special guest Marla Gibbs noted the friendly atmosphere saying "not only are these fabulous facilities, but the people here are so warm. This is what I call real Southern hospitality, I mean, my goodness, everyone is so loving and kind, I really am enjoying this."

Another year past, two more legends with their place in Alabama history solidified, and one of the best evenings the event has seen yet. The directors of the event always find a way to make the next year just a little bit more enchanting than the last. To put it in a way that does justice to both inductees:

Nothing could have been more "Unforgettable."



Photos by Courier Staff

One of the magical moments of this year's Gala was the performance of the actor-singers in the opening number of the Hall of Fame show. Their hand-jive tribute brought the house



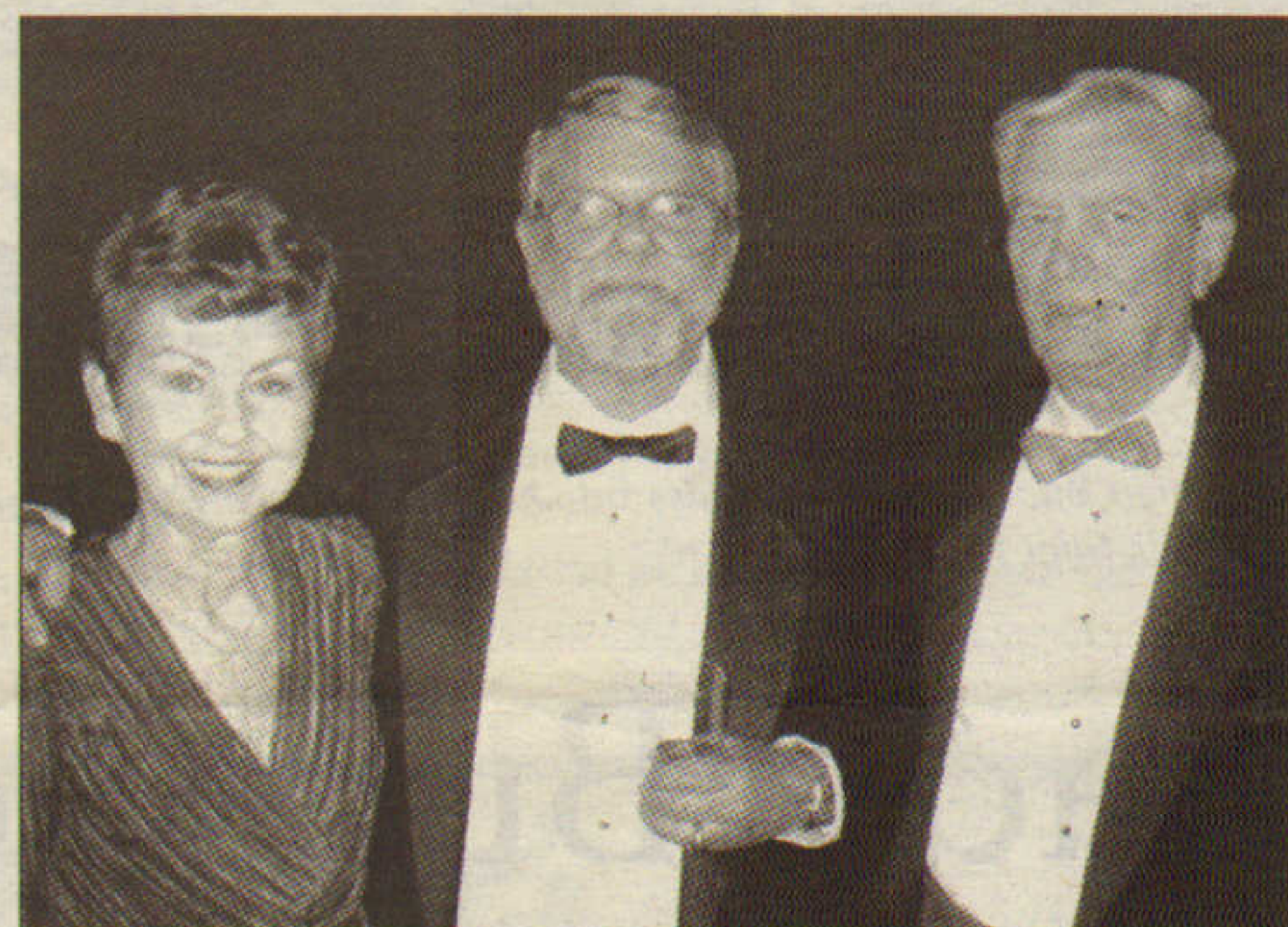
TV star Marla Gibbs (R) visits with fans (L-R) Morris Lee from New York and Annett and Charles Steele from Tuscaloosa.

now living in Miami, had the crowd chuckling during her whole presentation, hardly once looking at the script she was given to follow. She chose mostly her comedy routine as an introduction, but it was all too fitting for a man whose most famous show was based on the material of a stand up comedian.

Cheronos has not only worked on many popular television shows but now also teaches a film class at the University of Alabama. While making films with his class at the University, Cheronos has used many of Shelton State's resources during pro-



The Steve Sample band performed double duty at the A by playing at the induction show and by playing dance band in the atrium.



Hall of Fame honoree Tom Cheronos (C) visits with Frankie and Buddy Burton of Tuscaloosa during the Gala. Many years ago, Cheronos worked for Burton delivering newspapers in Tuscaloosa.



Reveling in the moment from the stage in the Bean-Brown Theatre are (L-R) comedian Victoria Jackson, local acting star Lauren Carr and TV star Marla Gibbs.

Buccaneers falter at first home game

By **Jonathan King**
Chief Writer

For the first time this year, the weather was perfect. Shelton was finally able to play their first home game on

campus, after the first scheduled home game moved to another location.

The sun was shining and there wasn't a cloud in the sky, with one exception. On this particular afternoon a rain-

cloud had placed itself directly over the pitcher's mound.

Shelton's pitchers Jacob Elmore and Rob Burns combined to give up 14 runs in a game that only lasted six innings. Despite a good effort by both, opponent Jeff State's hitters couldn't miss.

Elmore had a nearly perfect first inning including a first batter strike out, but lost control in the second, giving up four.

In the bottom of the second he did what he could to ignite a comeback that brought the Bucs to within one.

That would be the last runs Shelton would score until Hunter Richardson hit a solo home run in a futile effort to keep Shelton from falling to a ten-run rule.

Burns came in in the fifth, and that is when the Jefferson State bats really got started up. They

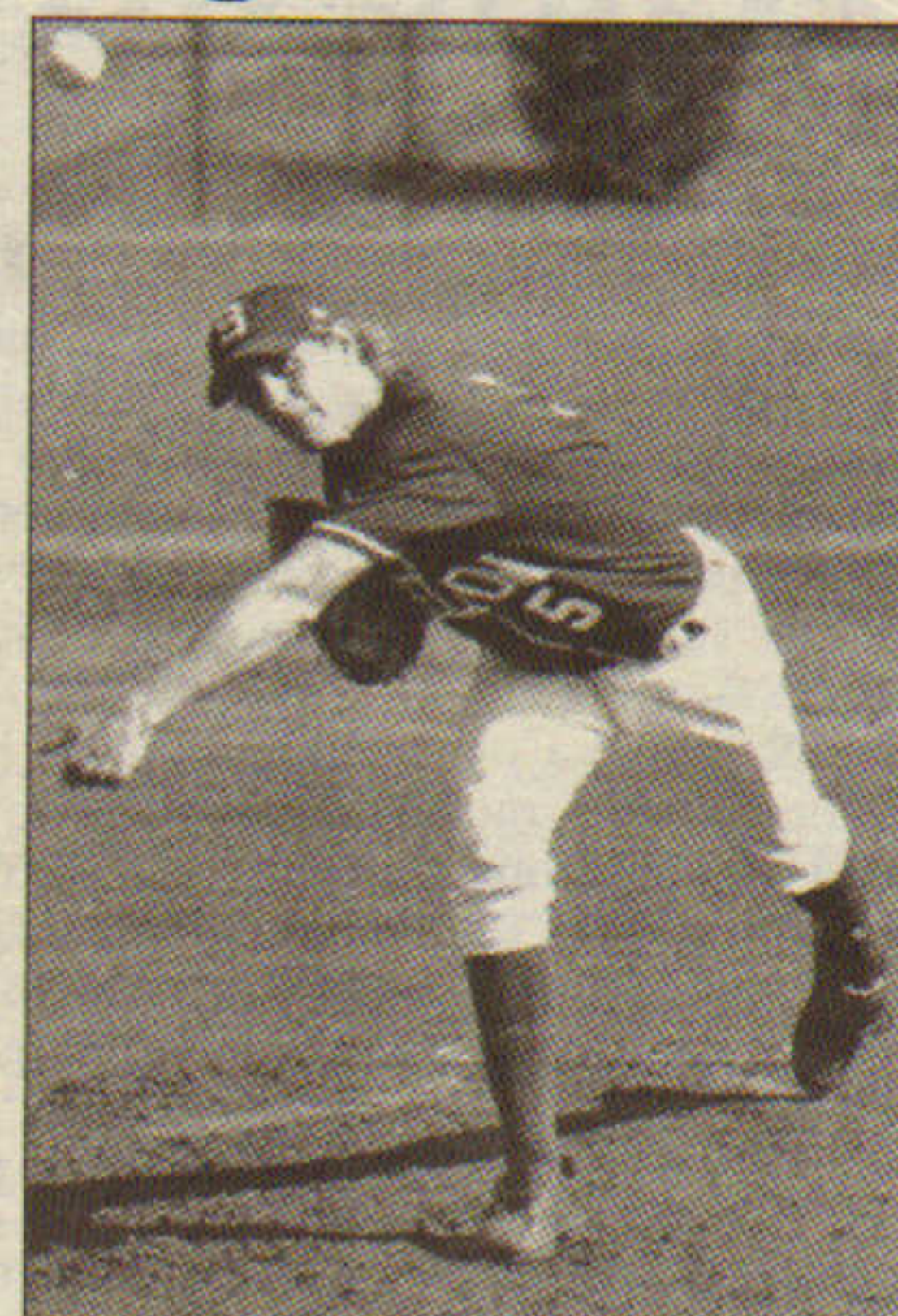
drove in eight runs in one inning, forcing the Bucs to find two runs before the seventh inning or face defeat. Shelton did not find that spark, and the first home game ended in a loss.

To his credit, Elmore pitched over three innings with great command of his pitches and control of the hitters, but all that is for horse-shoes and hand-grenades. Shelton will have to find the bat power to support the pitchers they have or this will not be the only home loss this season.

The Bucs baseball team will regroup and come back stronger for their double header against Jefferson State March 22.

It is also hard for a team to win home games when the opposing team brings more fans than the home team.

Shelton State's baseball team will be fighting an uphill



Sophomore pitcher Jacob Elmore throws a fast pitch. Elmore is from Northport.



Photos by Jason Collins

Freshman Buc Adam Stacy slides into home plate during the game. Stacey is from Hueytown.

battle both on the road and at home if they don't have a little fan support from students.

The relatively few fans in attendance expressed the hope that more fans will cheer the Bucs on to victory at future home games.

Lady Bucs softball starts at 8-2

By **Kim West**
Staff Writer

If you see someone filming a trophy riding atop a van during exam week, it could mean only one thing for the Shelton State softball team: its first state championship under second-year coach Melissa Bautista.

"We have a mission to do something with the team video camera every month," freshman Alicia Lavendar said. "If we win state (in May), we're going to ride around in the Bentley with the trophy on top."

The Bentley is Lavendar's van, a conspicuous vehicle she proudly touts as the team's unofficial ride.

"This month we're going to put a baby carriage on top of the van and ride around until someone stops us," Lavendar said.

But to win that elusive trophy, the Lady Buccaneers know they have a lot of work to do.

Shelton State went 36-11 and was one inning away from securing the state title last season, before losing to Wallace-Dothan in the finals.

"Our goals are to win our division and win state. Last year we made it to the championship and lost in the seventh inning," Bautista said.

This season, Shelton State is 8-2 heading into their conference schedule opener on March 16 at Jeff State, a team that will provide the Lady Bucs their first stiff road test. "Northwest-Shoals and Jeff State are the teams that give us the best competition," Bautista said.

Despite only two losses, the Lady Bucs are not satisfied.

"We need to stop playing down to the [other

team's] level," Lavendar said. "We need to play at our level. We're 8-2, but we should be 10-0."

That responsibility rests squarely on the team's 11 sophomores. They include a starting pitcher, eight regular starters and two players sharing catching duties. In turn, Bautista has dedicated each of Shelton State's 11 home games to her sophomores and is relying on them to provide leadership, instead of naming individual team captains.

Bautista cited rightfielder Amy Busing (.471 batting average) and catcher Teresa Stephens (.440) as offensive leaders.

"Our team batting average is .291, but they're getting better hitting each day," Bautista said. "The girls earned a lot of respect last year...the other teams are playing back, so they're catching all our deep balls. We're not hitting like we can be, but that's also because we're not getting much practice [because of the rainouts]."

Bautista credited her team's defense and pitching for the team's success.

"Our defense and pitching are doing really well. Our defensive leaders are shortstop Cara Roberts and centerfielder Darbi Sams. And our team ERA is 1.6."

Sophomore Sara Winton (3-2) is allowing just 1.94 earned runs per game, while freshman Rebecca Tweedy (5-0) is giving up a measly 1.24.

Shelton State's next home game is against Northwest-Shoals on March 26 at 1 p.m.

The Lady Bucs compete in Alabama's Division II North conference. If they win state (May 1-3), they will play a best-of-three series at regionals. The region champion advances to the national tournament in Phoenix, Ariz.

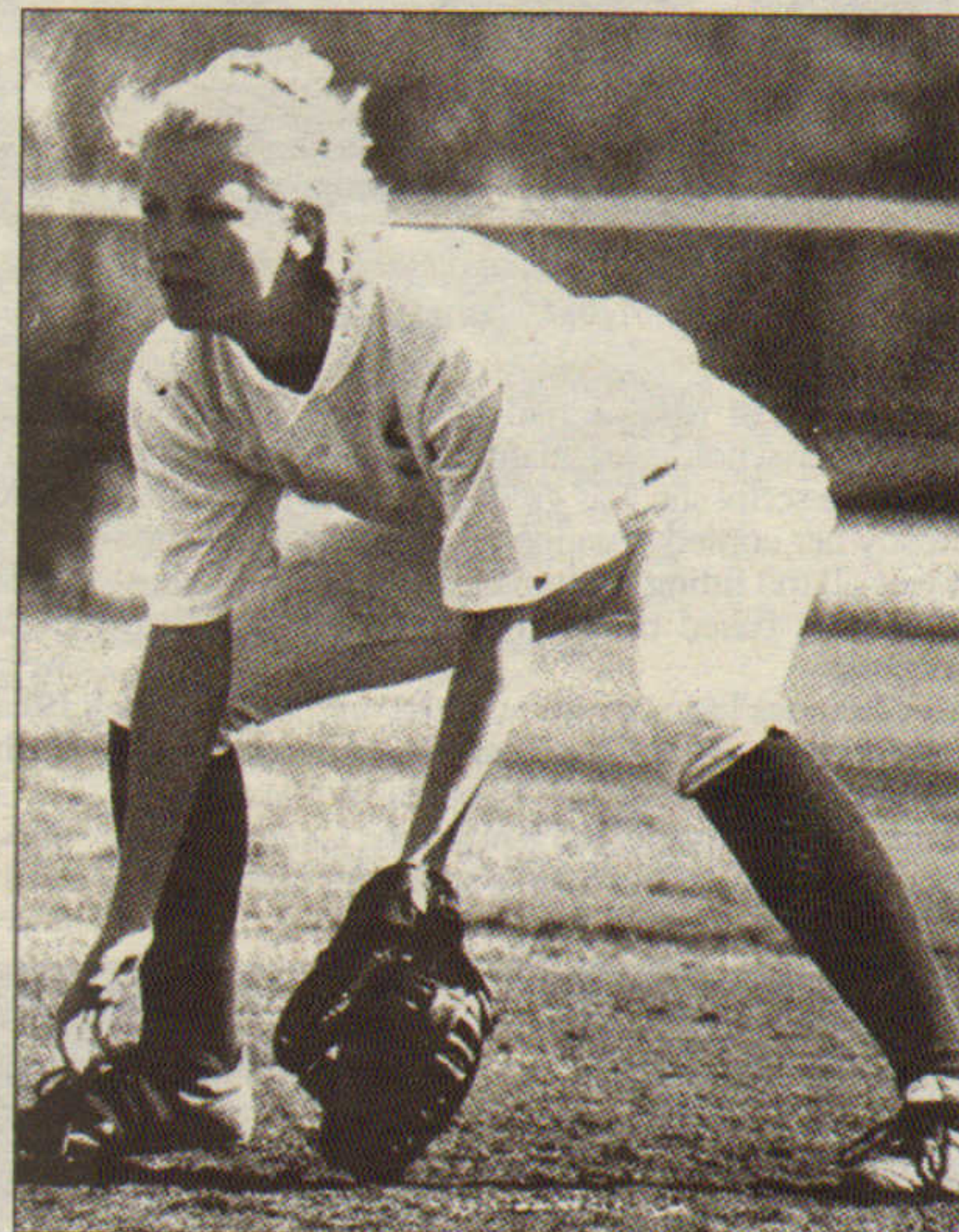
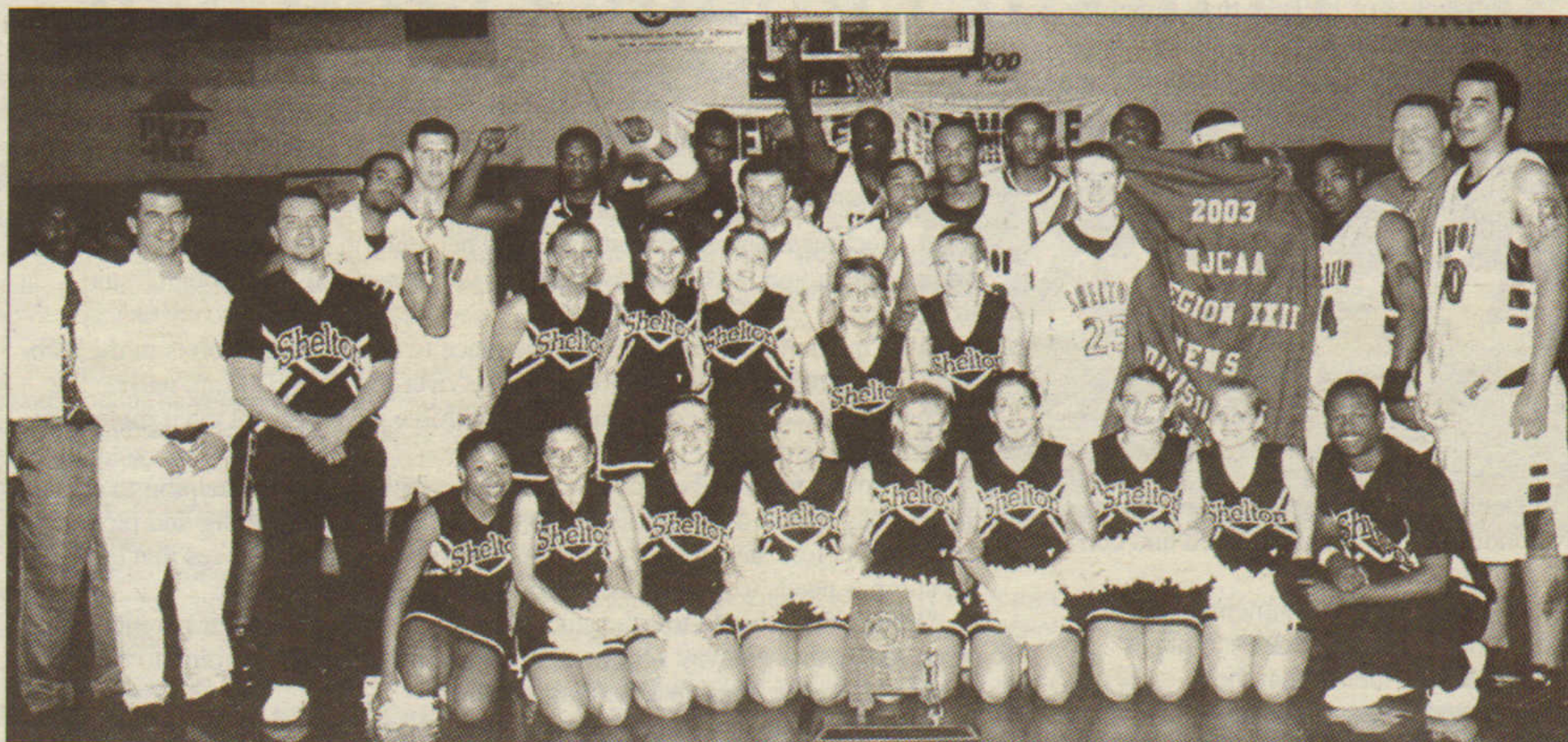


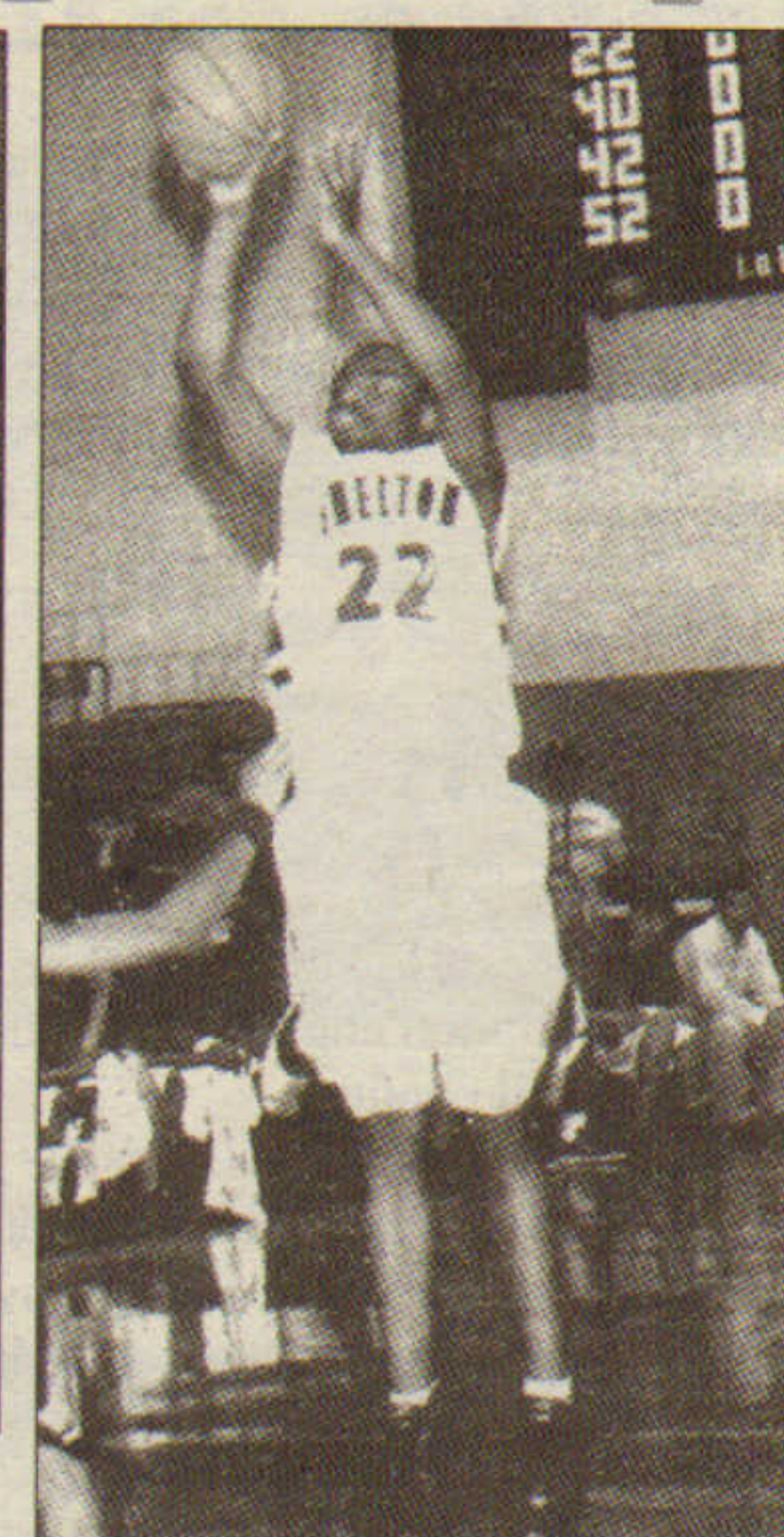
Photo by Jason Collins

Lady Buc Sarah Frances Penn stays ready for action during a recent Lady Bucs game. Penn, a sophomore, is from Clinton, Miss. The Lady Bucs are currently 8-2 and will host Northwest-Shoals on March 26 at 1 p.m.

Leading the way to the state championship



Photos by Courier Staff



Claiming the championship

Left — Head Coach Barry Mohun gives a few pointers to the Bucs during a time out.

Above — The Bucs pose for a photo with cheerleaders and other supporters after winning the state championship at Bay Minette on March 7.

Right — Sophomore Tim Lewis shoots for two during the championship game. Lewis, from Prattville, was presented the All-Region, All-Tournament Award after the game.



State

From Page 1

at one point by as much as 16 points, the Buccaneers caught Faulkner with a minute to go. They held on for a 74-72 on a layup by Joseph Martin with 3.2 seconds left. Still they had to endure a frenzied Faulkner crowd and a last-second near miss to clinch the victory.

The team ended the regional schedule with a 30-3 record and the thanks and admiration of their successful fifth-year coach, Barry Mohun. "I'm really happy for all the guys," Mohun told the media after the championship victory. "They've worked hard all year long, and this is a great way to top it off."

Named to the all-tournament team were Jeremy Law and Joseph Martin. Martin led the team in scoring in the championship game, with 24 points.

"We are very proud of the team," said President Rick Rogers. "Coach Mohun and everyone associated with the program are to be commended for their effort the whole season long."

The Buccaneers made another magnificent effort Tuesday, March 11, when they took on the District 10 winner in the opening round of the National Junior College Athletic Association tournament. Attendees at the Umphrey Center at Shelton seemed unanimous in their opinion that the Shelton-Georgia Perimeter game was one of the most exciting games they had seen in a long time, though the outcome was not what the partisan crowd wanted. "It was really a replay of the Faulkner State game, commented Rene Lemmond, one of the Shelton cheerleaders. "But it didn't end the same way, unfortunately."

Georgia-Perimeter had a 6-foot-11-inch center who led the team to its 78-77 win. But the Buccaneers' high-flying players crashed the boards with the opponents all game long. The Bucs, though, were sunk by some uncharacteristically cold foul shooting in the first half.

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Erin Vinston takes honors in competition

From Staff Reports

Shelton State's Forensics Team participated in the Mardi Gras Classic at Louisiana State University on Feb. 21-22.

The team was on of the only two community colleges competing against 14 universities such as the

University of Florida, the University of Houston and Washington University.

Shelton student Erin Vinston received first place in one of the dramatic interpretation events.

For more information on State's Forensics Team, contact Angela Gibson at 391-2937.

Creek

From Page 1

by coal mines. However, according to Dee Rowe, an Alabama Department of Transportation engineer, the study conducted has been approved and construction will continue.

Controversy abounds over the fate of the creek. Environmentalists claim the study and subsequent documents by TDOT were expedited to begin construction. They also attest to overwhelming evidence that the Environmental Impact Study is seriously flawed.

These groups felt strongly enough about saving the creek that they have suggested alternate routes. The newly proposed routes are said to be more environmentally sound and even less costly than the original.

At a recent canoe outing on the creek, Randy Mecredy, Education and Outreach Coordinator at of the Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama, said, "There is no evidence supporting (the theory) that the flow of traffic will improve after the bypass is completed." A member of the the Friends of Hurricane Creek, Macready talked about his hopes that the creek could be delivered from danger yet.

Mecredy and others have made their concerns known to TDOT and the rest of the community. John Wathen, president of Friends of Hurricane Creek, is one of the most vocal advocates of rerouting the bypass.

He has expressed concerns not only of the scenic beauty that will suffer, but also the fact that without retention ponds, the chemical runoff will inevitably end up in the creek as well, doing further harm to the species living there.

He also believes that TDOT does not have the expertise to contain and remove the acidic mine drainage near the construction site and that too will filter into the water. These factors will cause extensive damage to the endangered plants and animal habitats found in the area.

With the rerouted version, the congestion of traffic with minimal disturbance to the creek.

Apparently the issue is far from resolved because meetings are still being scheduled between conservationists and TDOT officials. Conservationists are appealing to the public to help save this area and others like it and they believe these natural areas should not be sacrificed simply to get people to work a few minutes earlier.

For additional information about Hurricane Creek, visit their website www.hurricane-creek.org.

Tech

From Page 1

Technical Training back-up Rogers in their percentages; the largest percentage of tomorrow's jobs will start with today's technical graduates.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that 18 of the 20 fastest growing jobs in the next decade will require career and technical training.

Shelton State is proving this with the job placement numbers. "We have several technical programs that have 100 percent job placement. You finish the program then you have a job waiting for you when you get through," said Rogers.

With the numbers showing that the place to be for a great job is in the technical field, Shelton State's major emphasis over the next 10 years will be the promotion of technical education and workforce development even more than the academic side.

Promoting technical education will come with the task of helping to erase the stigmas attached to it. Roland Pugh, who received a welding and pipefitting certificate before starting his own construction company, believes that erasing the stigmas needs to start in the junior highs.

"I think they should test the students and give them and their parents consultation to say that the way Johnny tests out, he's probably not going to be a doctor or a lawyer or a teacher," explained Pugh.

Pugh explained that the students can then be directed towards a career that suits them and will allow them to make good money while at the same time utilizing the best options available for them. And a technical degree may be the way to go for numerous people.

"In two years or less you can be in a fast-track, high-paying career that you might not be able to get through the four year track," said Rogers. "Interesting careers with a high quality of life are easily available through the technical division. Perhaps even more available than through the academic division."

So what makes more sense for Little Johnny? To struggle through four years of college completely uninterested or to get one of those fast-track, high-paying positions in half the time with a hands-on education. Little Johnny knows the answer. Maybe his parents and counselors will grasp the concept, too.



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What's in the name?

ZAP Photography

This is the first of an occasional column explaining the background of prominent names in West Alabama.

By **Drew Hill**
Staff Writer

The city of Tuscaloosa is overflowing with local businesses that have become staples in the Tuscaloosa way of life. One such business is ZAP Photography, which, through meager upstarts, has become an indispensable part of the Tuscaloosa area for the past 32 years.

Current owner of ZAP, Gary Limmroth, explained that four University of Alabama students began ZAP Photography as a part-time business in 1971. Each of the four originating partners invested

\$25 to begin the business with the plan of photographing social events for the sororities and fraternities on the UA campus.

They chose the name ZAP Photography since ZAP was the informal nickname for the fraternity of one of the founding partners. In addition, the partners felt it was catchy and easy to remember.

Within the first year, two of the partners had graduated and left the company. The two remaining partners decided to split the accounts they had accumulated.

In the spring of 1973 Murphy decided to sell the business to Gary Limmroth. Thus, in May 1973, a new corporation, ZAP Professional Photography, Inc. was formed by Limmroth.

Limmroth says that over the next 29 years the business expanded to photographing events for both Greek and non-Greek organizations at Mississippi

State, Birmingham Southern College, Samford University, UAB, University of West Alabama, and Jacksonville State. In addition, ZAP became the leader in photographing high school and college commencement ceremonies in Alabama.

ZAP has always tried to remain the leader of "special event photography" in the state of Alabama.

To maintain their position ZAP has remained on the cutting edge of technology. One example is their use of the Internet to display photos for many of the events they photograph.

Limmroth says that ZAP intends to move more of their photography into the digital realm as the quality of the digital cameras improves.

Each semester, ZAP hires many new photographers, the majority of them local students. One long-time photographer for ZAP says, "It's a fun job. It's not the usual 9 to 5 and is definitely more social and outgoing than regular part-time work."

So don't be surprised if someone takes your picture at the next party you attend; it's been happening to students in the Tuscaloosa area for the past 32 years.

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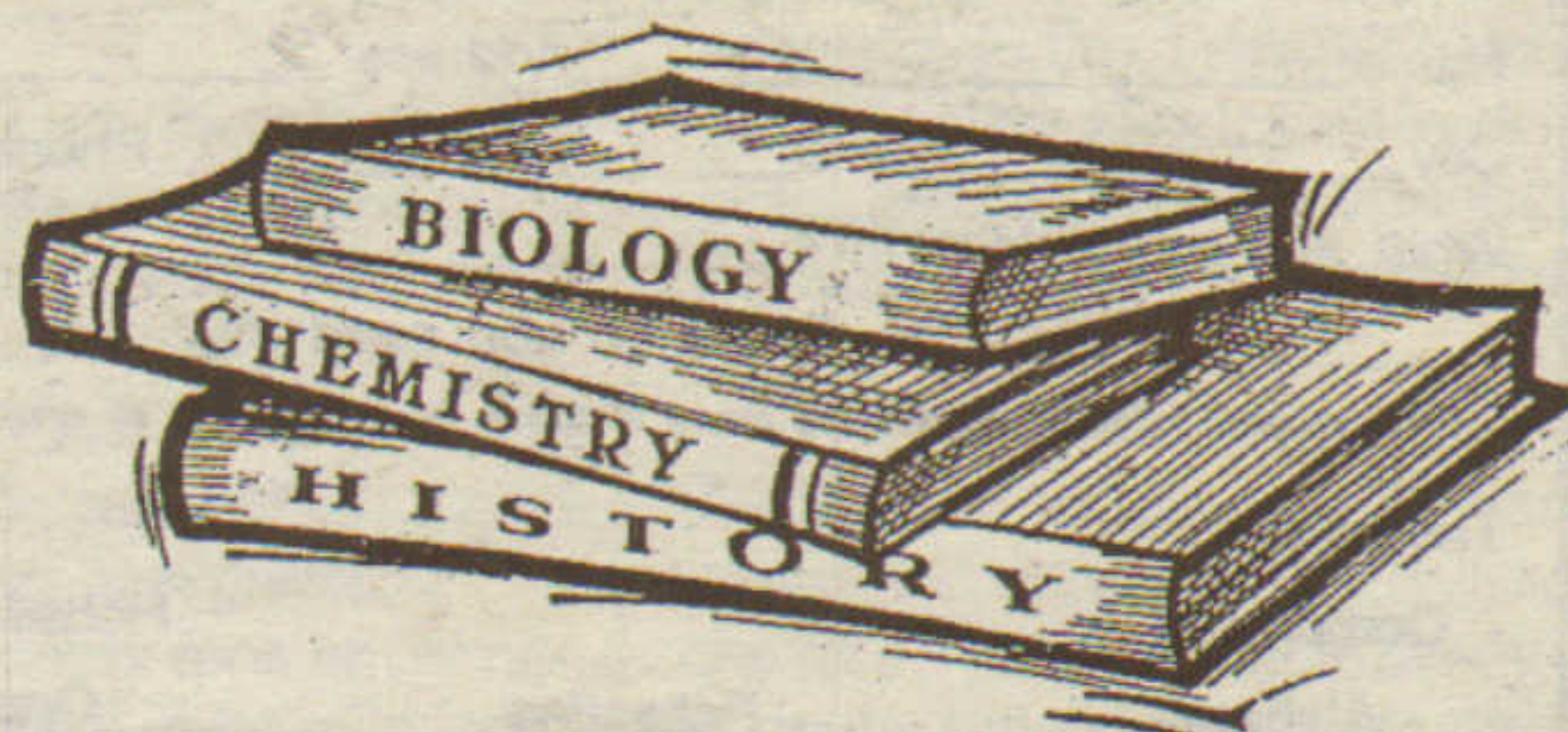
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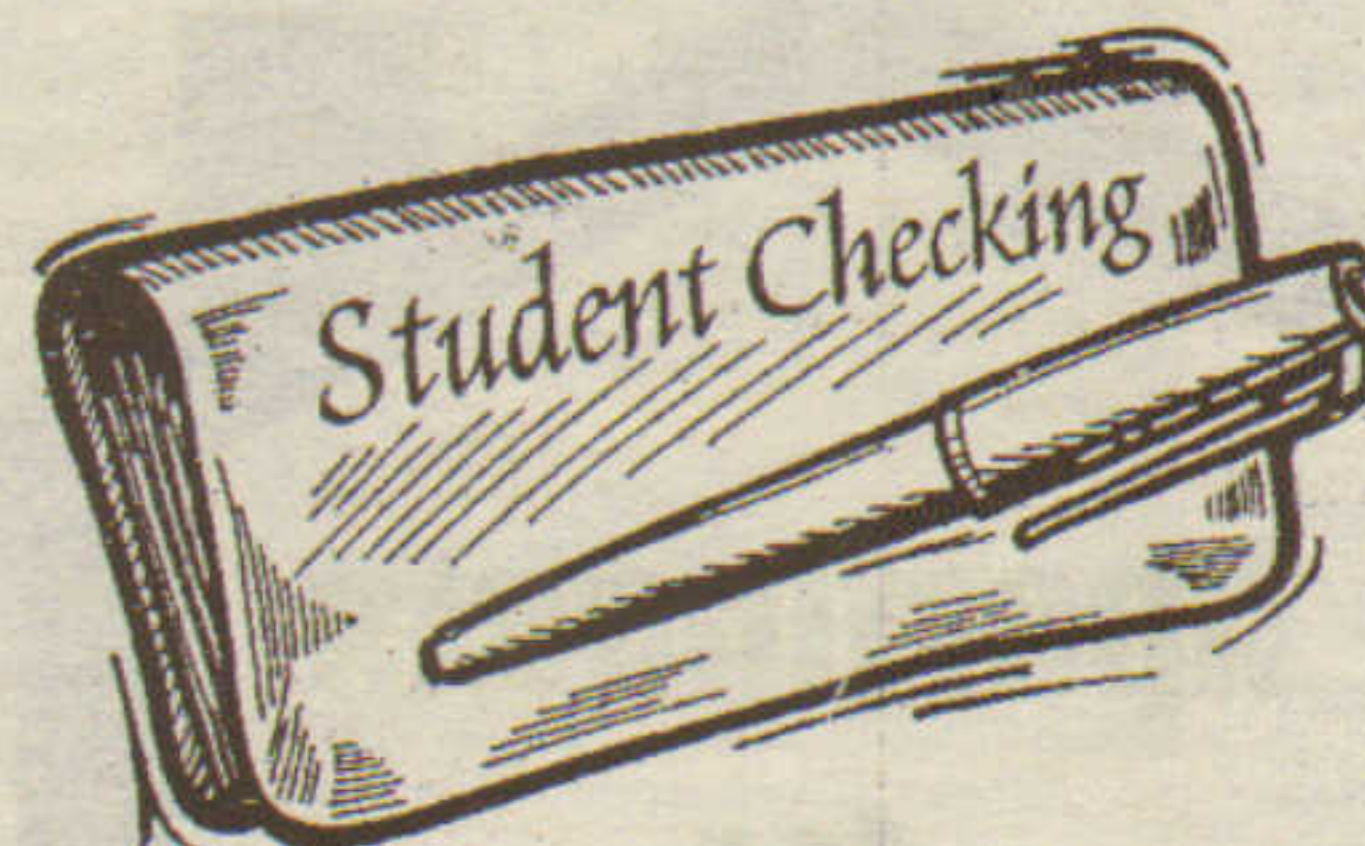
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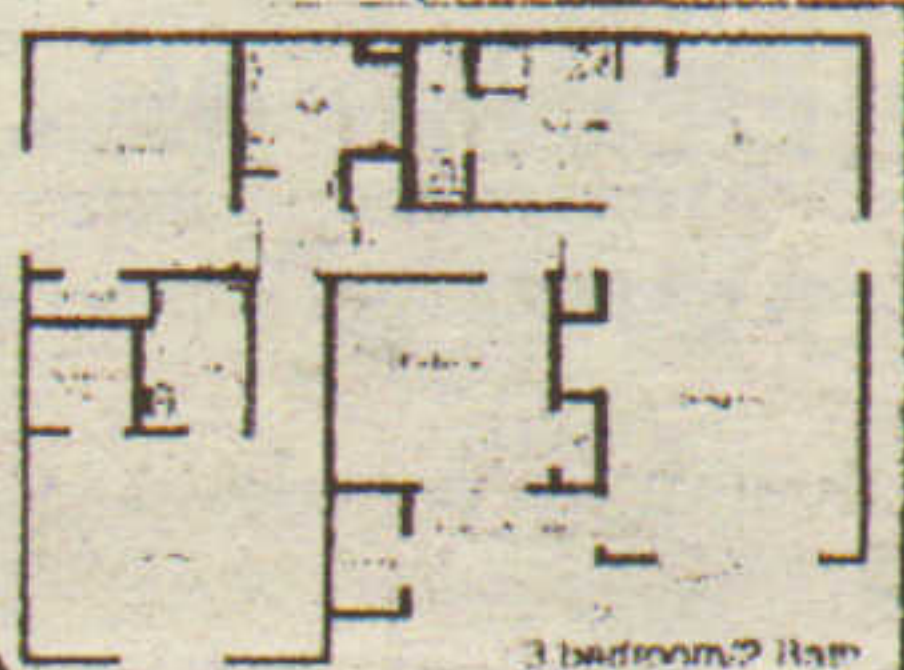
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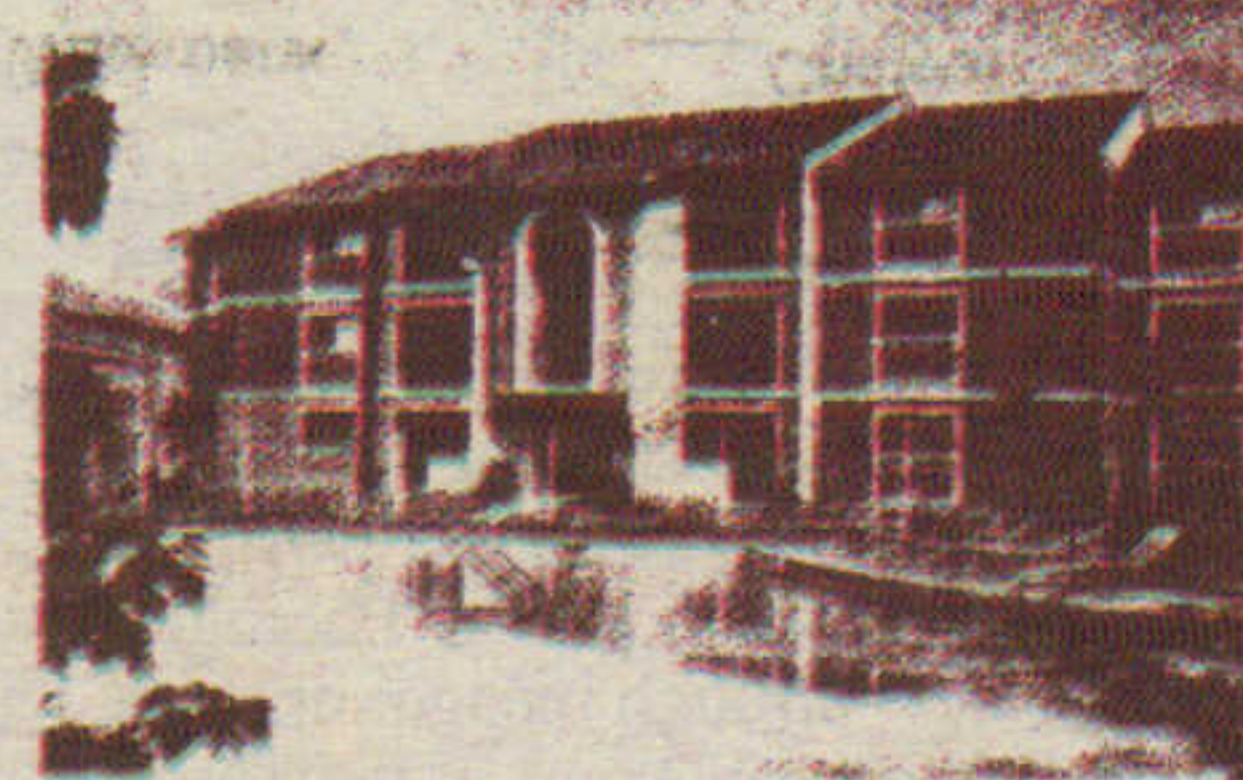
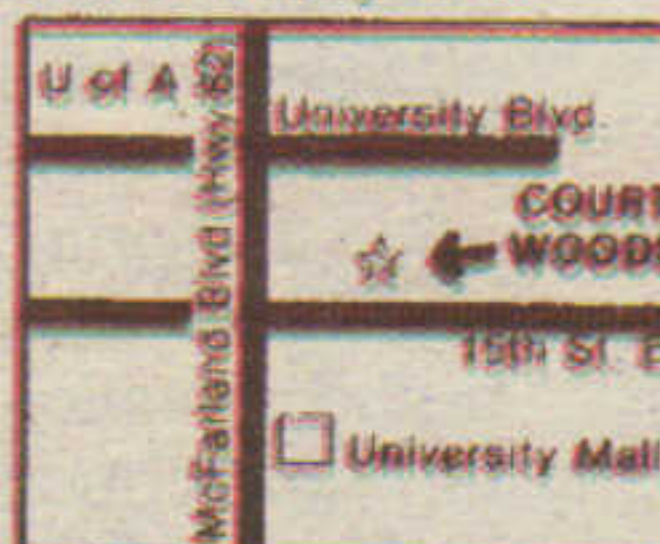
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